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December 12, 2003

Dr. Jeffrey W Runge, Administrator
National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Dr. Runge:

I am aware that you are considering changes to national fuel economy standards, and have also expressed serious concern over SUV safety in congressional testimony. The good news is that the blueprint for a better SUV for all Americans has already been drafted.

The Union of Concerned Scientists recently unveiled the Guardian, an SUV design that could save thousands of lives each year from rollover and crash-related accidents and boost fuel economy. In fact, the Guardian would far exceed the 20.7 mpg government requirement for SUVs and even surpass the 27.5 mpg standard for cars – all for a mere \$750 increase in cost.

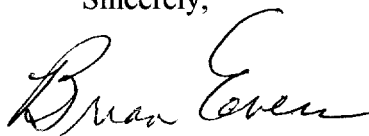
If the auto industry used the "off the-shelf" technologies included in the UCS blueprint, the resulting SUVs would:

- **SAVE LIVES.** The Guardian's stronger roof unibody construction, and improved seat belt technology would save thousands of lives every year.
- **SAVE MONEY.** The average SUV costs \$11,000 at the pump over its lifetime. The Guardian would put more than \$2,400 back in its owner's pocket.
- **SAVE GAS.** Engine modifications and an aerodynamic design result in a thrifty 27.8 mpg, meaning less oil dependence and fewer heattrapping gas emissions.
- **NO COMPROMISES ON QUALITY.** The Guardian not only provides better safety and fuel economy, but also the same acceleration and power as a Ford Explorer.

I urge you to use the power and authority of the NHTSA to make SUVs safer for families and the environment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

①

Sincerely,



Brian Evers

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